

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 50-70 are now pending in this application. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1-49 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 50-70 have been added to more clearly define the invention and distinguish the prior art. Claim 50 defines a specific structure that contains two separate fluid lines as supported by the specification, for example, original claim 1 as well as Figure 1 and the disclosure on pages 5 and 6 of the application. The prior art does not disclose the claimed structure, which requires two separate fluid lines. Moreover, there are certain advantages attributable to the claimed invention, e.g., it is more compact and it is safer (i.e., there is a lower risk of contamination between the “drain” line and the “clean” line). No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

Turning to the Office Action, claims 36 and 39 were rejected under Section 112 for lacking an antecedent basis. This rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation without prejudice of those claims and the insertion of new claims that are believed to be in compliance with Section 112.

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, various prior art rejections were lodged against the prior pending claims. Applicants submit that these rejections are moot in view of the new set of claims that require, among other things, a specific structure that contains two separate fluid lines. None of the prior art discloses or suggests this claimed invention in its particular combination. Applicants have discovered that this invention creates the possibility of a more compact and safer device that lowers the risk of contamination between the drain line and the clean line. The claim features and its attributes are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

NEFTEL et al
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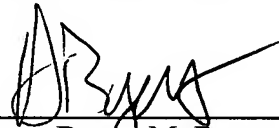
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the examiner has any questions concerning this case, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

Respectfully submitted,

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